

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached Replacement Sheets 3 and 4 include changes to Figures 3 and 4. Figure 3 has been amended to add the label and reference number BATTERY VOLTAGE 338 to match the Specification at Page 6, Line 26. Figure 4 has been amended to change one occurrence of reference number 430 to reference number 435 to match the amendments to the Specification at Page 7, Lines 7 and 16. Figure 4 has also been amended to change POWER RAIL 270 to POWER RAIL 240, and REGULATED VOLTAGE 250 to REGULATED VOLTAGE 260, to match the Specification at, for instance, Page 6, Lines 10 and 12.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to an Office Action mailed December 12, 2006. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein.

Claims 1-21 remain in the present application.

The December 12, 2006 Office Action noted that an IDS filed on February 17, 2005 appeared unrelated to the present invention. Applicant apologizes. The IDS appears to have been mistakenly filed in the present application.

The December 12, 2006 Office Action requested that the disclosure be carefully reviewed. Applicant has complied with the request. The disclosure and drawings have been amended to correct previously undetected informalities. No new matter has been entered.

In the December 12, 2006 Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, 9-17, and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,898,294 issued to Sean P. Gold. (hereinafter "Gold"). Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly distinguish over Gold. As discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4, 6, 9-17, and 19-21, as amended, are now patentable over Gold.

For example, amended claim 1 states:

A battery pack to couple to a battery pack port, said battery pack comprising:

a switching control port to receive a switch control signal from the battery pack port;

a battery stack;

an output power port; and

switch circuitry to selectively couple the battery stack to the output power port based at least in part on the switch control signal.

Amended claim 1 describes a battery pack that can couple to a battery pack port. For example, a laptop computer may have a battery pack port into which an embodiment of the claimed battery pack may be inserted to power the computer. The claimed battery pack includes a switch that can disconnect the power source inside the battery pack from the pack's output power port. The battery pack can receive a signal from the battery pack port to control that switch in the battery pack. For instance, continuing the example above, if the laptop computer is plugged into an electrical outlet, the laptop computer may send a signal through its battery port to the battery pack, and the battery pack may disconnect its power source based on that signal. In other words, a control signal from outside the claimed battery pack can be used to disconnect the power source inside the battery pack.

Gold, in contrast, is directed to charging a lithium-ion battery pack using a charger designed for nickel-cadmium batteries (Gold; col. 1, lines 44-49 and 59-65). Gold describes both a two-terminal battery pack and a three-terminal battery pack (Gold; col. 5, lines 33-37 and 44-46; Figs. 5A and 5B). In the two-terminal device, one terminal is ground, and the other terminal is used both to power a load and receive a battery charging current (Gold; Fig. 5A; col. 5, lines

38-43). In the three-terminal device, one terminal is ground, one terminal is used to power a load, and one terminal is used to receive a battery charging current (Gold; Fig. 5B, col. 5, lines 47-49).

In each embodiment, Gold describes control circuitry inside the battery pack that can modulate the battery charging current into a form suitable for charging lithium-ion batteries (Gold; Figs. 1-2; col. 2, line 37 to col. 3, line 24). Applicant respectfully submits that Gold has nothing whatsoever to do with a control signal from outside a battery pack that can be used to disconnect the power source inside the battery pack.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Gold does not suggest, disclose, or enable “a switching control port to receive a switch control signal from the battery pack port,” and “switch circuitry to selectively couple the battery stack to the output power port based at least in part on the switch control signal,” as claimed in amended claim 1.

Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is patentable over Gold.

Applicant respectfully submits that the reasoning presented above similarly applies to claims 2-4, 6, 9-17, and 19-21. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-4, 6, 9-17, and 19-21 are also patentable over Gold.

In the December 12, 2006 Office Action, claims 5, 7, 8, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Gold. Applicant,

however, respectfully submits that the reasoning discussed above similarly applies for to claims 5, 7, 8, and 18. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5, 7, 8, and 18 are patentable over Gold.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-21 are now in a condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of such claims.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to our Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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